

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 2981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, DR. HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING

REF: STATE 231853, COPENHAGEN 2593, 2817

1. PRINCIPAL CHANGE INSITUATION HERE SINCE MY
ASSESSMENT EARLY IN OCTOBER HAS BEEN DOWNFALL OF ANKER
JORGENSEN'S SOCIAL DECORATIC GOVERNMENT. AS POINTED
OUT IN COPENHAGEN 2817, HOWEVER, US INTERESTS SEEM
UNLIKELY TO BE DAMAGED BY CHANGE IN DANISH GOVERNMENT.
BY TIME COM MEETING CONVENES, WE WILL HAVE RESULTS OF
DECEMBER 4 GENERAL ELECTION AND MAY EVEN KNOW COMPOSITION
OF NEW GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH THAT APPEARS DOUBTFUL AT
THE MOMENT. ALMOST CERTAINLY, RESULTS WILL REFLECT
SIGNIFICANT DEFEAT FOR JORGENSEN AND HIS PARTY. THERE
IS STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT CENTRIFUGAL FORCES ON
CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE WILL ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECT
OTHER MAJOR PARTIES, TO BENEFIT OF TWO NEW SPLINTER
GROUPS, RENDERING CREATION OF NEW MAJORITY GOVERNMENT
DIFFICULT IFNOT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE. IF HIATUS AT
GOVERNMENT HELM CONTINUES INDEFINITELY, THIS COULD

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COMPLICATE DENMARK'S RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE US. AND

NATO, AS WELL AS ITS INCREASING TIES WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

2. ENERGY CRISIS HAS CREATED NEW ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES, WITH POTENTIAL POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS. BECAUSE DENMARK IS AT END OF THE OIL SUPPLY LINE, ITS GOVERNMENT HAS FELT CONSTRAINED TO TAKE SEVERE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ON ENERGY USESAGE, INCLUDING CUTBACK OF 25 PERCENT OF FUEL OIL FOR INDUSTRY. EFFECT WILL FEED ALREADY HIGH INFLATION, INCREASE UNEMPLOYMENT AND PUT FURTHER STRAINS ON ALREADY SEVERELY DETERIORATING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. IF DANISH OIL-USE RESTRICTIIONS BECOME MARKEDLY MORE SEVERE THAN IN OTHER EC COUNTIRES, RELATIONS WITH COMMUNITY COULD ALSO BE AFFECTED. U.S. EXPORTS OF FARM PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY MAY BE REDUCED IF DANISH INDUSTRY SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY OIL SHORTAGES.

3. SIX MONTHS PERIOD DURING WHICH DANES HAVE HELD EC PRESIDENCY IS NOW DRAWING TO A CLOSE, BUT CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF THEIR EXPERIENCE IN CENTER OF EUROPEAN CROSSCURRENTS HAS BEEN STRONG AND I THINK IT WILL HAVE LASTING CONSEQUENCES. PUBLIC OPINION HAS TAKEN A TURN IN AN ANTI-EC DIRECTION, LARGELY BECAUSE OF RISING PRICES ASSOCIATED WITH MEMBERSHIP, BUT PRO AND ANTI SENTIMENTS ARE STILL ROUGHLY INBALANCE AND THERE HAS BEEN NO SERIOUS MOVEMENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMMUNITIES. MOREOVER, KNOWLEDGEABLE POLITICAINS AND OFFICIALS HAVE FOUND EXPOSURE TO WIDE AUDIENCE STIMULATING AS WELL AS PERSONALLY GRATIFYING. THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO EXERCISE THEIR LEVERAGE AS OPINION LEADERS TO PERSUADE ELECTORATE THAT DENMARK'S FUTURE LIES IN EUROPE RATHER THAN IN RESTRICTED CONFINES OF SCANDINAVIA.

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